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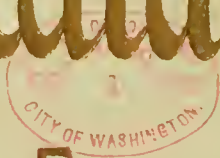


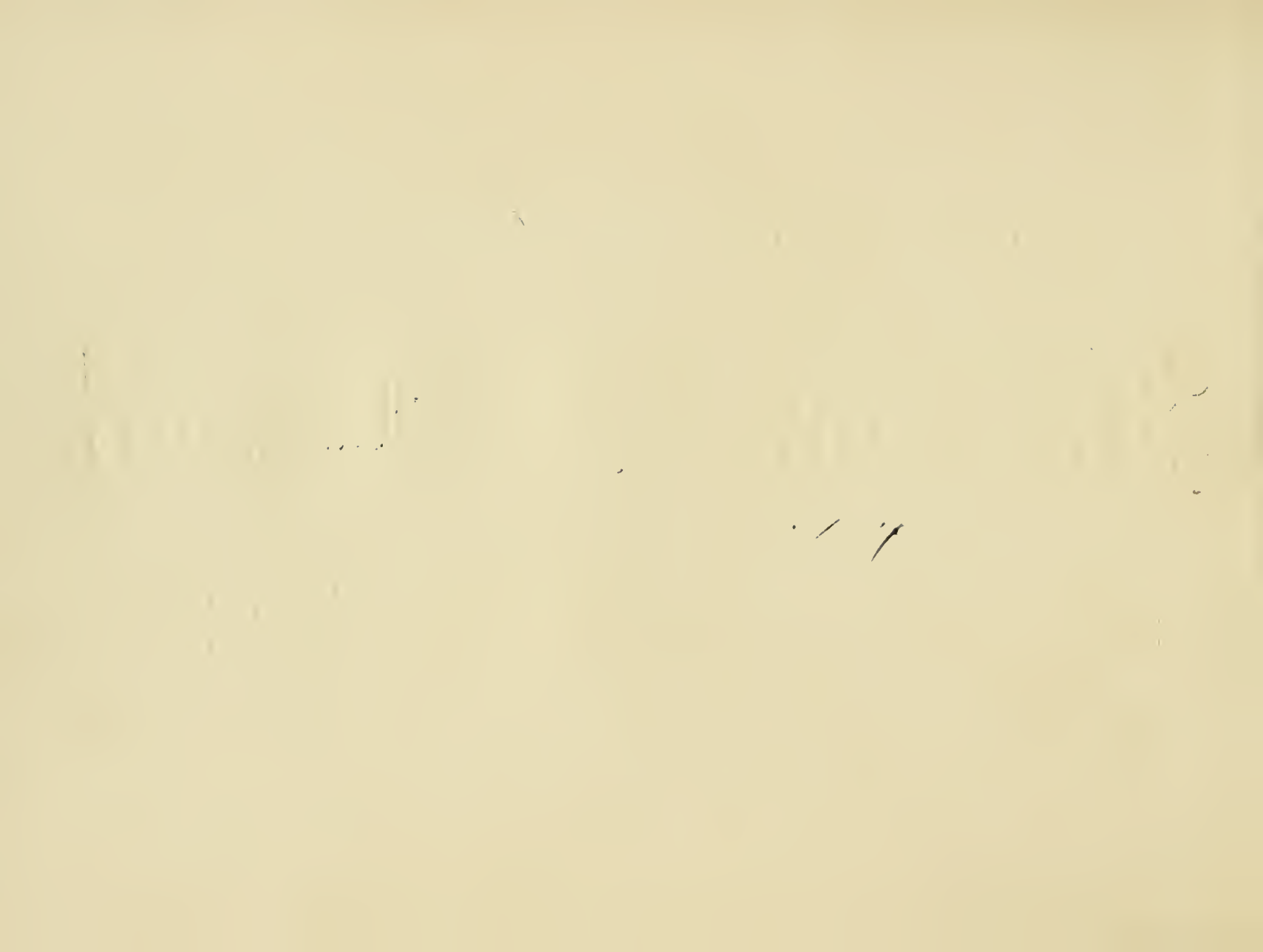
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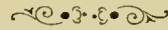
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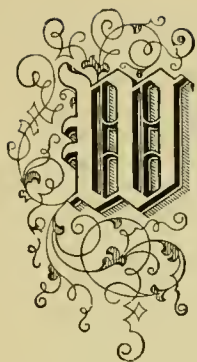
**T**HIS book is presented to the leading architects of America in the belief that they will find much in it to interest them, and in the hope that it may also be useful in giving a suggestion here and there. The book gives comprehensive views of the very best type of hotel architecture in the world. This group of Florida hotels represents the *ne plus ultra* in hotel building. There is nothing in the world to equal them, either in external or internal appearance. They were built by a firm of Florida contractors, who are justly proud of their work and anxious that it shall be known to all lovers of the beautiful and artistic in building. If the illustrations offer any suggestions or present any problem to any architect, he is invited to correspond with McGuire & McDonald, St. Augustine, Fla.





PONCE DE LEON HOTEL AND ALCAZAR PARK.





HEREVER Florida is known as a winter resort, the fame of its hotels has also been spread. To be sure, the climate is a healthful one and all the natural surroundings remarkably beautiful and pleasurable, but without the assistance of good hotels, Florida could never have become as famous as it is.

The most prominent of all the Florida hostelries are the Ponce de Leon, the Alcazar, the San Marco at St. Augustine; the Ormond at Ormond; the Seminole at Winter Park, and the Royal Poinciana at Palm Beach. These hotels form a group which is not equaled any place else in the world. In building and equipping them, no expense was spared. The question of cost was at all times subservient to the desire and the resolution to have the very best that could be obtained. The result has been most satisfactory. Nobody ever forgets a visit to or a sojourn at one of these hotels.

It is rather a significant fact that all of them were built by one firm of contractors. McGuire & McDonald have been in business in Florida for thirteen years. Their business has grown until it is now the most important building business in the State. In the whole thirteen years there has been an even, steady growth, and at all times the firm has obtained business by deserving it. Their finished work has always been the strongest argument in their favor. The work speaks for itself. These six magnificent hotels are monuments to the ability, honesty, and enterprise of the builders. They are monuments of which any man might well be proud. To be the builder of absolutely the finest hotel in the whole world is certainly a distinction.

The work of McGuire & McDonald has not been confined to hotel building, however, and among many other edifices for which they are responsible are the Memorial Presbyterian Church at St. Augustine, erected by Mr. Henry M. Flagler in memory of his daughter, the Manse of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, which is of itself a considerable piece of work, and an excellent example of art in building; the Grace M. E. Church, the Hotel Barcelona,

and the house of Mr. Flagler in St. Augustine. This latter structure is in purely Colonial style, and every detail has the stamp of the ability of an artist. All of the many gigantic building enterprises of Mr. Flagler in Florida have been executed by McGuire & McDonald. This of itself is a sufficient recommendation to those who know Mr. Flagler's keen artistic sensibilities, his impatience with anything lacking perfection, and his pre-eminent good taste in matters pertaining to art and architecture.

The Hotel Ponce de Leon is as well, and possibly more favorably, known all over the world than was the enthusiastic explorer after whom it was named and whose life was wasted in a vain search for the chimerical "fountain of youth." From every point of view the Ponce de Leon is irreproachable.

Its beautiful exterior is only to be excelled by the magnificence of the interior plans and decorations. Probably the most notable feature of the whole hotel is the magnificent dining room. The room is lighted by windows of stained glass, illustrating allegorical subjects. The coloring of the decorations in general carries out the Renaissance spirit that appears everywhere else in the building. There is a gallery for musicians. There are flowers and beautiful paintings and decorations everywhere. If dining is ever a fine art, it surely can be made so here.

The parlor is also a remarkable room. It is 104 feet long and 53 feet wide, but is so divided by portières, screens, and arches that it is in reality five separate rooms. Coziness is combined with stateliness, and the monotony which is the usual drawback to a large room is relieved. The magnificent onyx mantel in this room cost nine thousand dollars, and the decorations and furnishings are in keeping with this. Between the two towers, and looking down into the court on one side, while it opens toward the interior of the dome on the other, is a broad, paved terrace, covered with an arbor of vines and plants. The terrace is extended to the two sides of the building, forming thus a splendid promenade. The view from the terrace takes in the sea, the gardens, and the Florida wilderness that creeps up to the very door of St. Augustine.

Across the broad plaza is the beautiful Alcazar, which serves the purpose of providing amusement and occupation for the visitors of the Ponce de Leon, while it furnishes at the same time rooms for the accommodation of those



GATEWAY—PONCE DE LEON.





who are unable to obtain them in the Ponce de Leon. Though very different in detail, it follows the same general style of architecture. The great façade presents a pleasing variety of towers, pavilions, minarets, arcades, and roofs of old Spanish tiles. There is an arcade of shops opening on the plaza. From this one passes through to a square court, a sort of Palais Royal, with numerous bazaars, gay with all sorts of wares. In this court is also a luxuriant tropical garden. The Alcazar has a great sulphur swimming bath and a salt-water bath, tennis grounds, club rooms, and all sorts of aids to amusement. In addition to all this there are three hundred bedrooms and a very large restaurant. In connection with the Alcazar is operated one of the finest Turkish and Russian bath houses in the world.

A third hotel at St. Augustine, the San Marco, is very simple in design, but the work of the builders is equally as well done as it is in the more pretentious edifices named before. The Alcazar and the Ponce de Leon represent an expenditure of over four millions of dollars, and of this amount there was no dollar wasted.

The reputation of McGuire & McDonald is that their finished work always shows results commensurate with the cost.

While they feel great pride in the Alcazar and the Ponce de Leon, the culminating point of all their years of endeavor is at Palm Beach on the shore of the beautiful Lake Worth. The Hotel Royal Poinciana is the work of Mr. McDonald from its inception to its completion. The designs were all made under his direction. It was built according to his ideas and under his immediate supervision. It is the finished offspring of a brain made capable by a life-time of study and experience. Mr. McDonald looks upon it as his best work, because it is his own all the way through.

The building of the Royal Poinciana is especially remarkable for many reasons. The location of Lake Worth, and the inadequate facilities for the transportation of freight which existed at the time the hotel was built, made the work very difficult. The ground was broken for the building May 1, 1893. The hotel was finished, furnished, and opened for guests February 15, 1894. There were used in the construction 5,000,000 feet of lumber, 360,000

shingles, 4000 barrels of lime, 5,000,000 bricks, 2400 gallons of paint, 20 acres of plaster, 3,000,000 lath, 1200 windows, and 1800 doors. There are 439 rooms and 524 closets.

The Royal Poinciana is a fine example of the Colonial style of architecture. It is symmetrical in all its details. There was no effort made to secure gaudy display, and an air of refinement and genuine home comfort pervades the whole place. It is a hotel built for people to live in. It was conceived and carried out on a large scale. It is roomy, light, and cheerful. The dining room is a magnificent *salon*, in pure Colonial style, and the rotunda and its galleries carry out the same beautiful, simple, artistically severe ideas of form and color.

To those who can see these magnificent hotels, no words of praise for the builders are necessary. There is no theory about the work of McGuire & McDonald. There is no guess-work about it. Each one of these buildings is an enormous and forceful fact. Past performances are the best of all promises for future success. Just how McGuire & McDonald are going to improve their previous work, or their reputation, it is hard to say. It would be unwise, however, to assert that they have arrived at the acme of their achievements. A building business which has grown in volume and quality year by year for thirteen years certainly must be capable of further development. With the indomitable energy and the ambition to excel which are possessed by this firm we may at some future time expect to see even these beautiful and imposing buildings eclipsed by something even more stupendous.





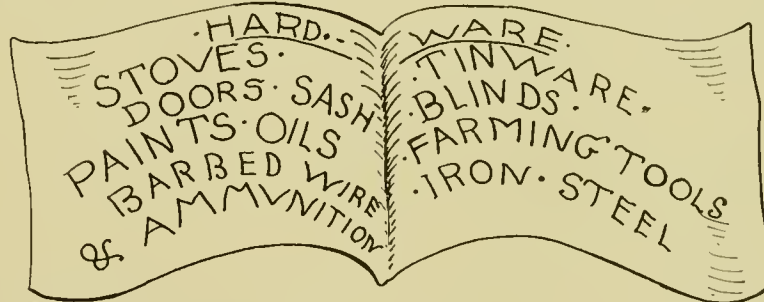
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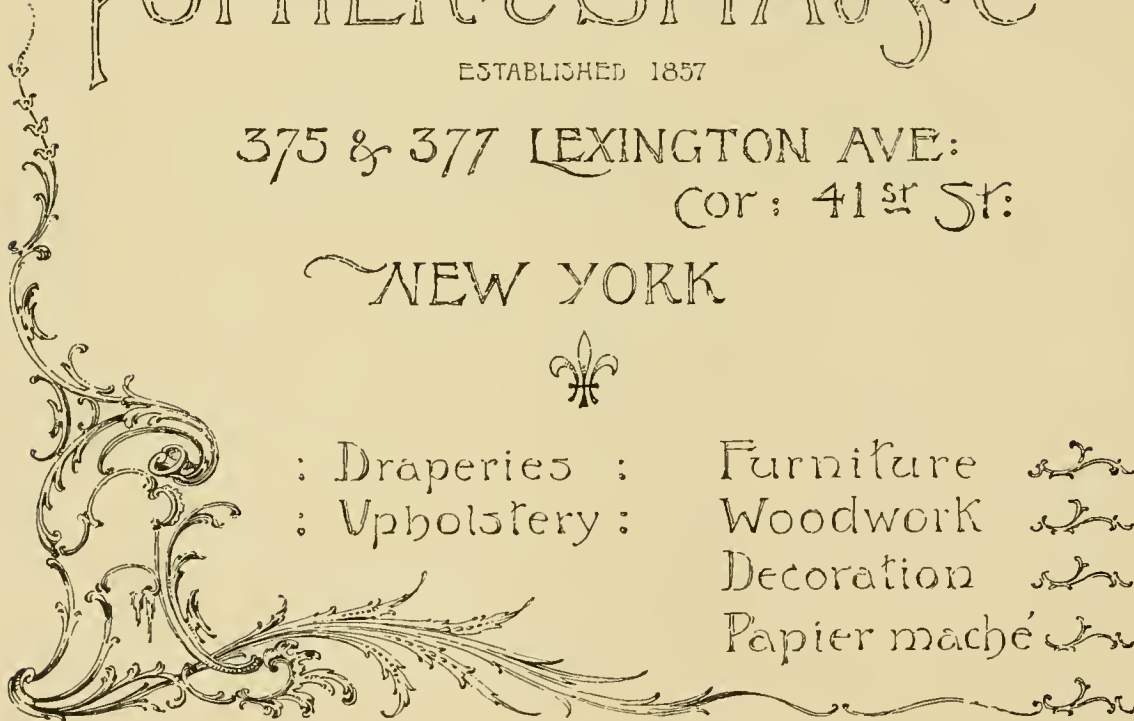
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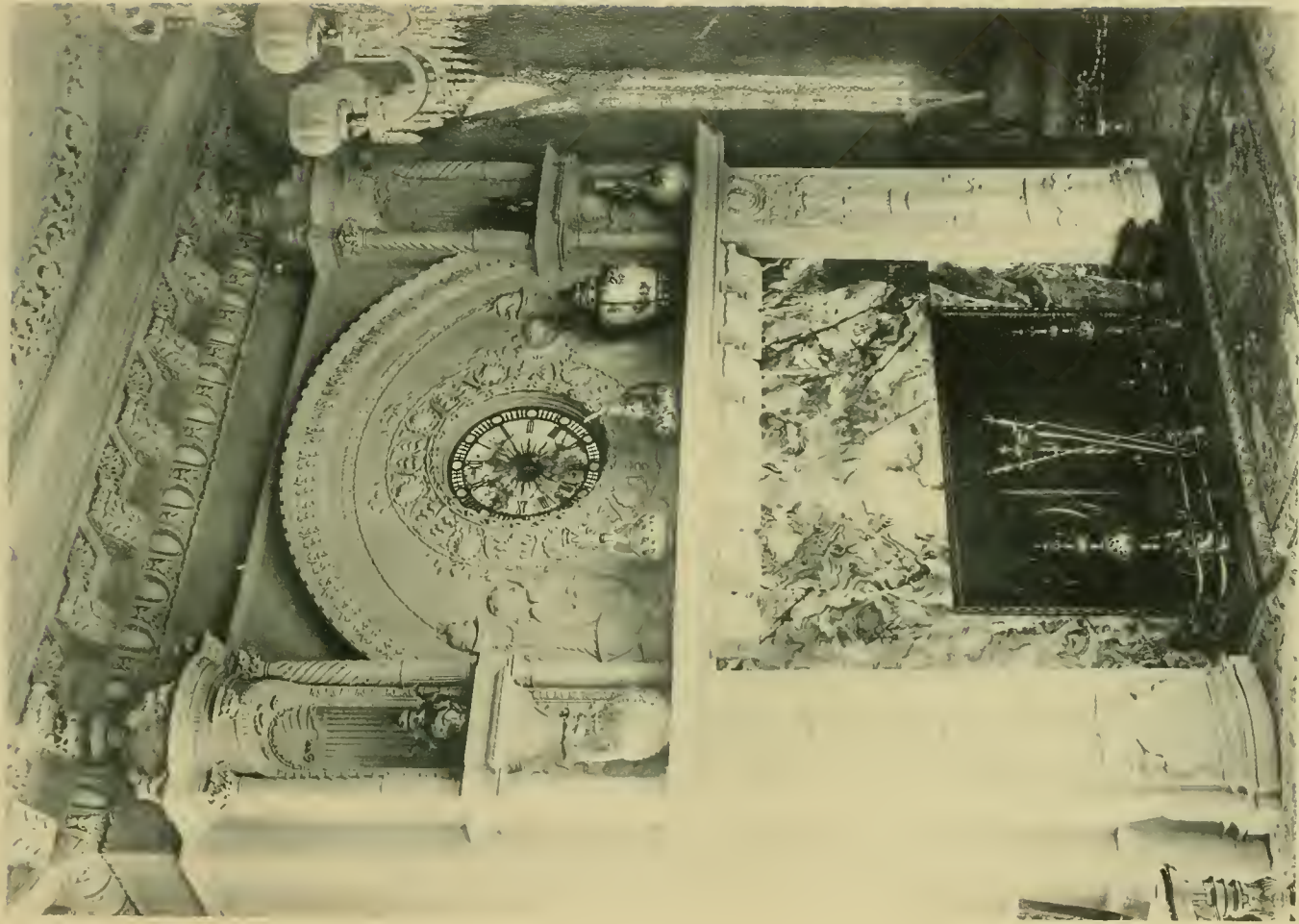
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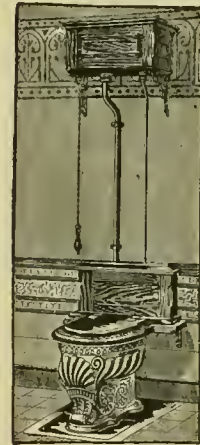
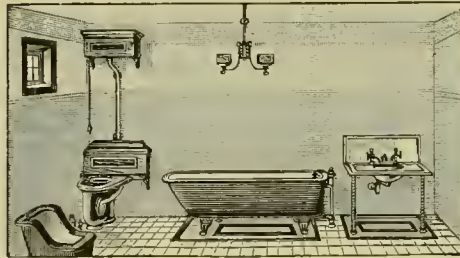
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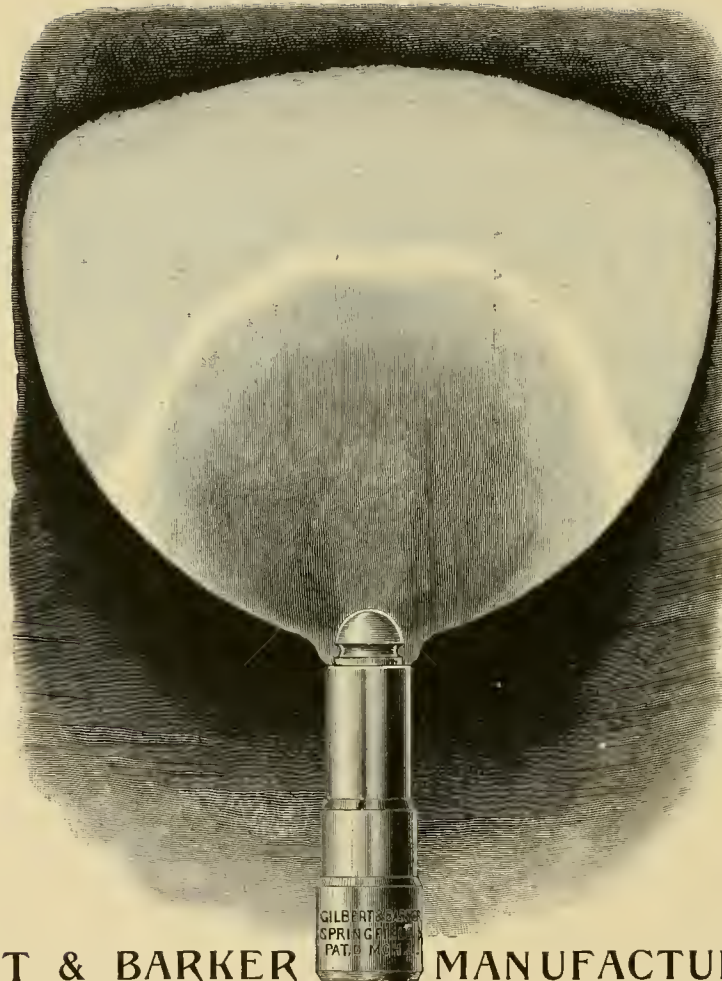
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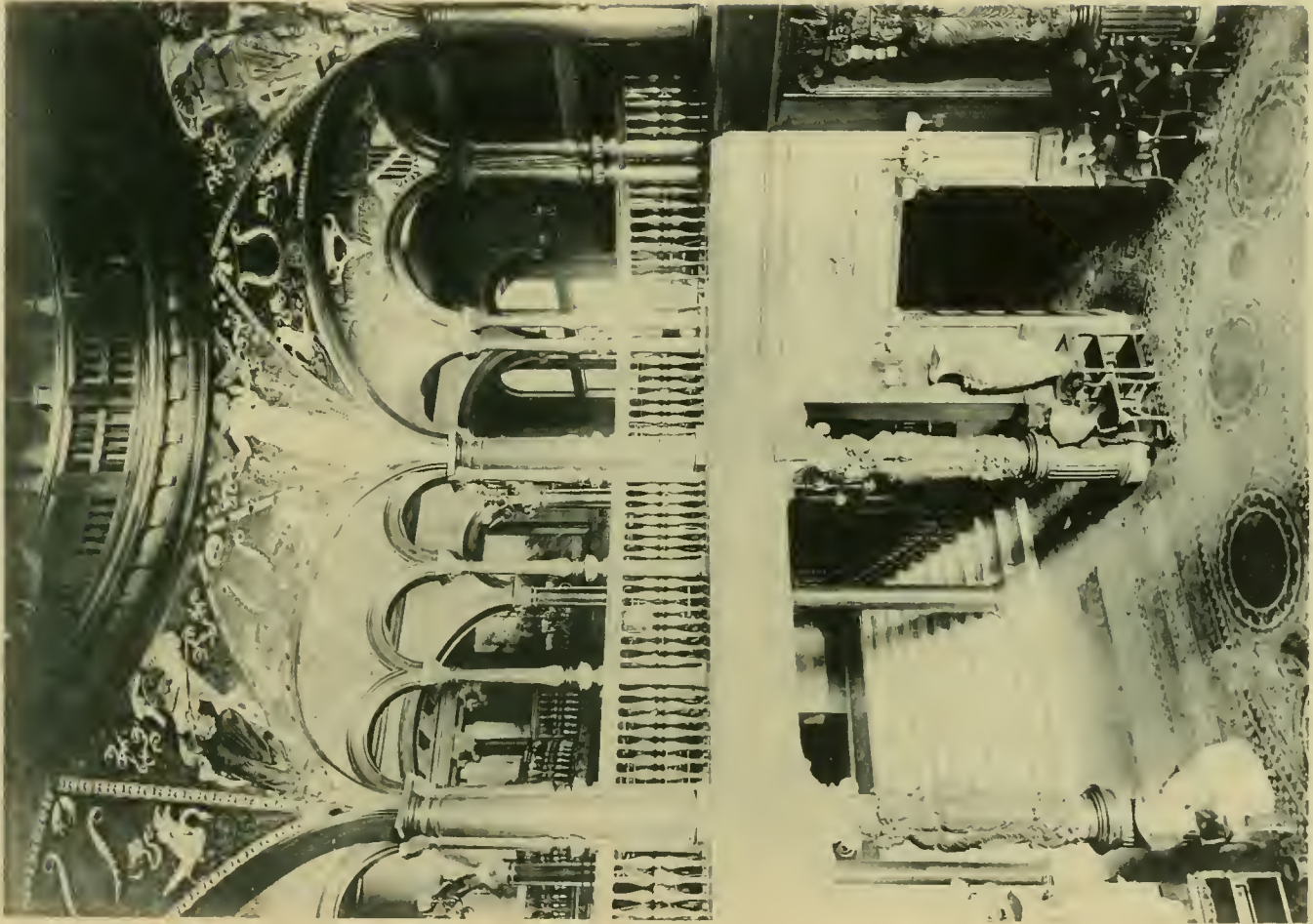


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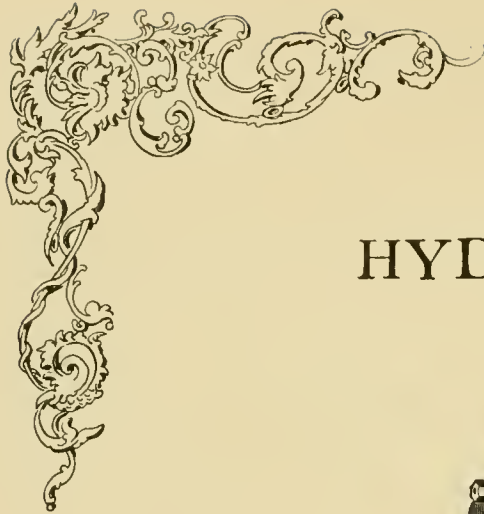


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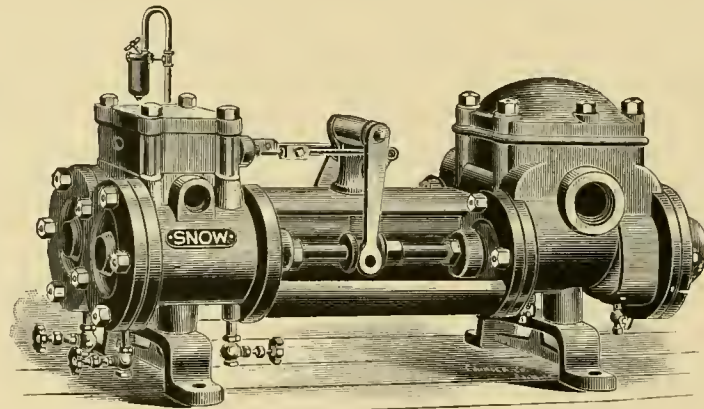


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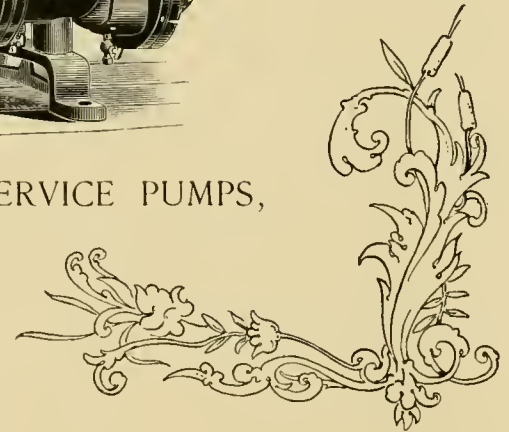
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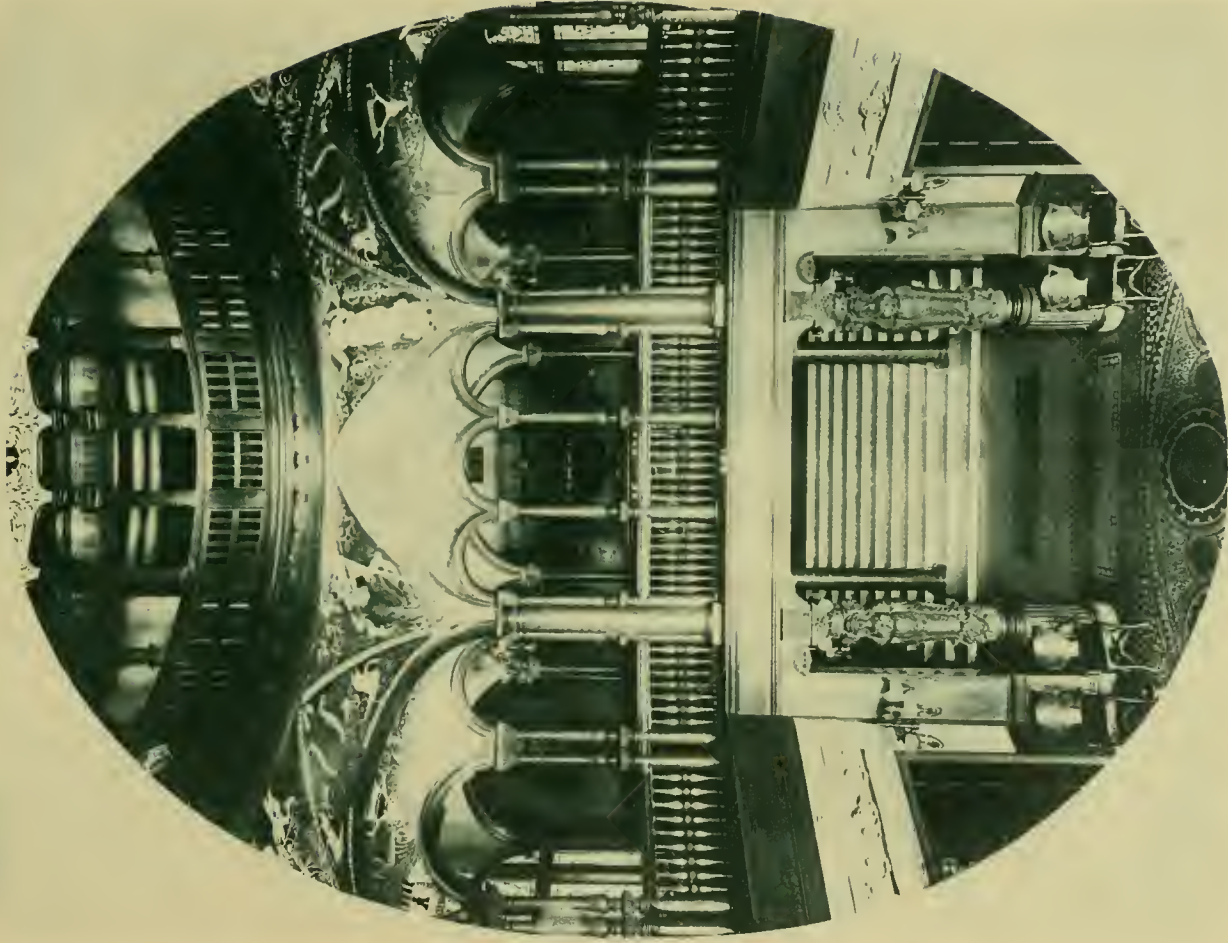


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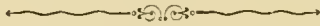






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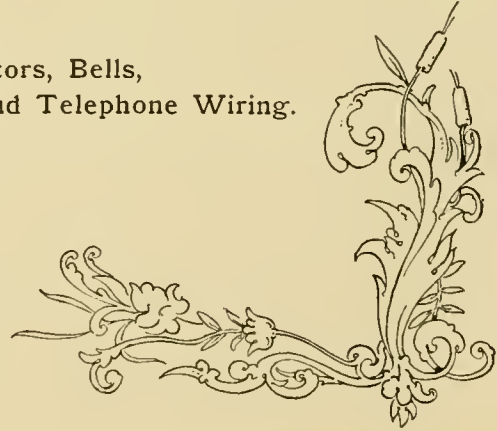
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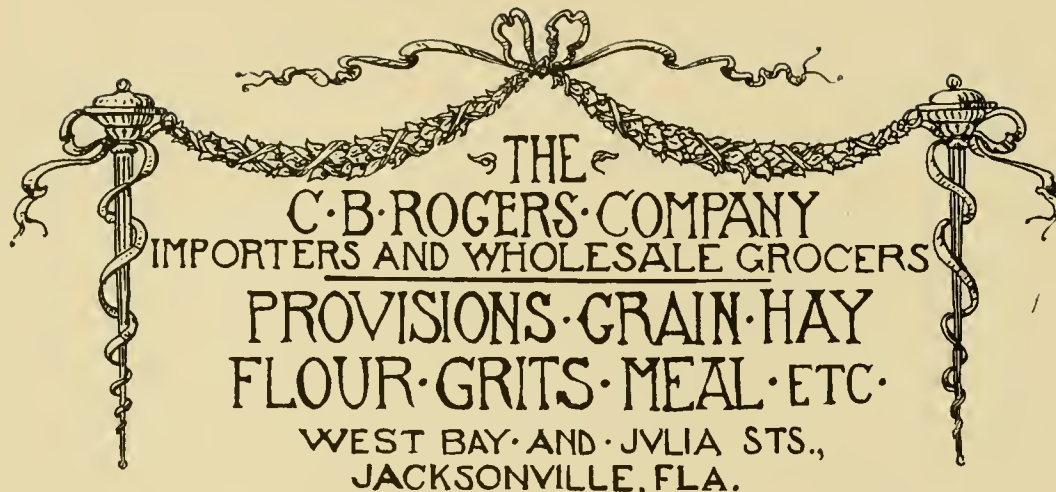




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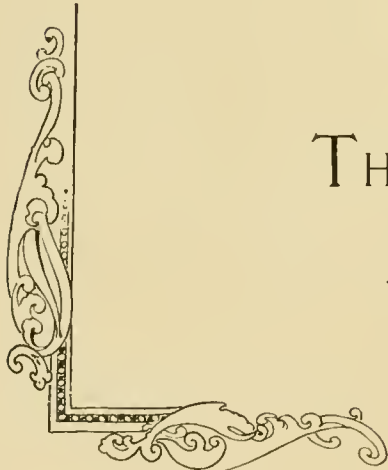


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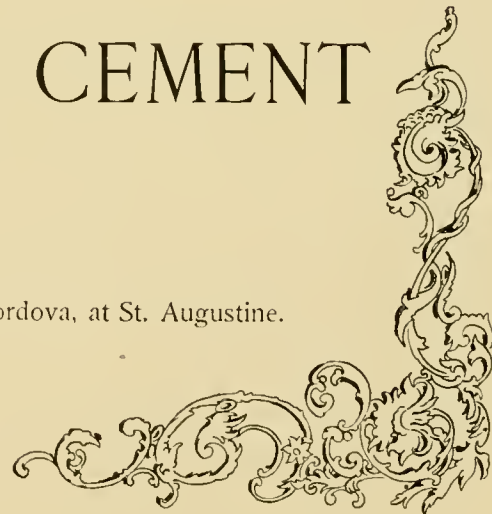
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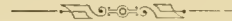
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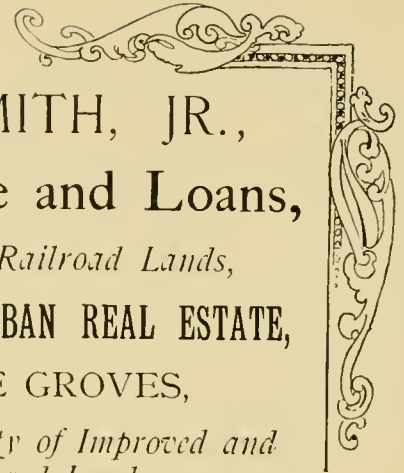
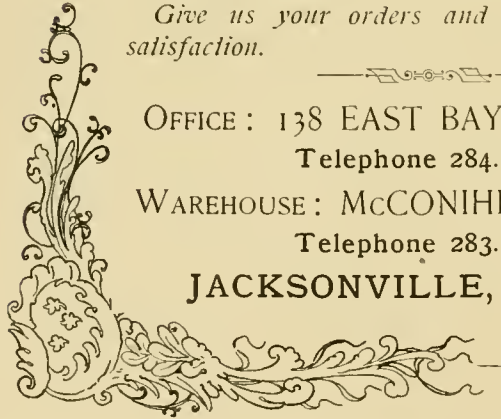
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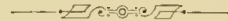
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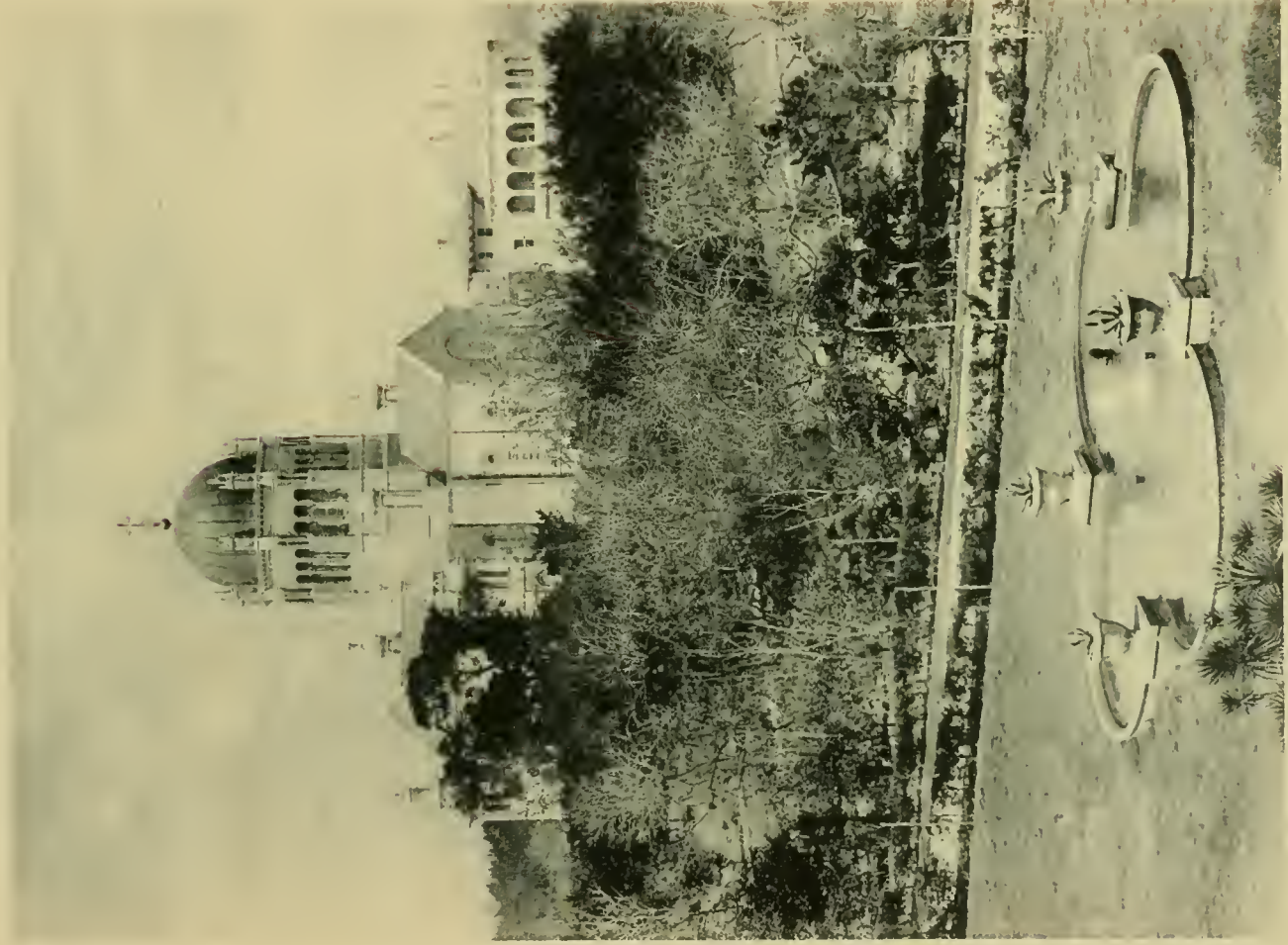
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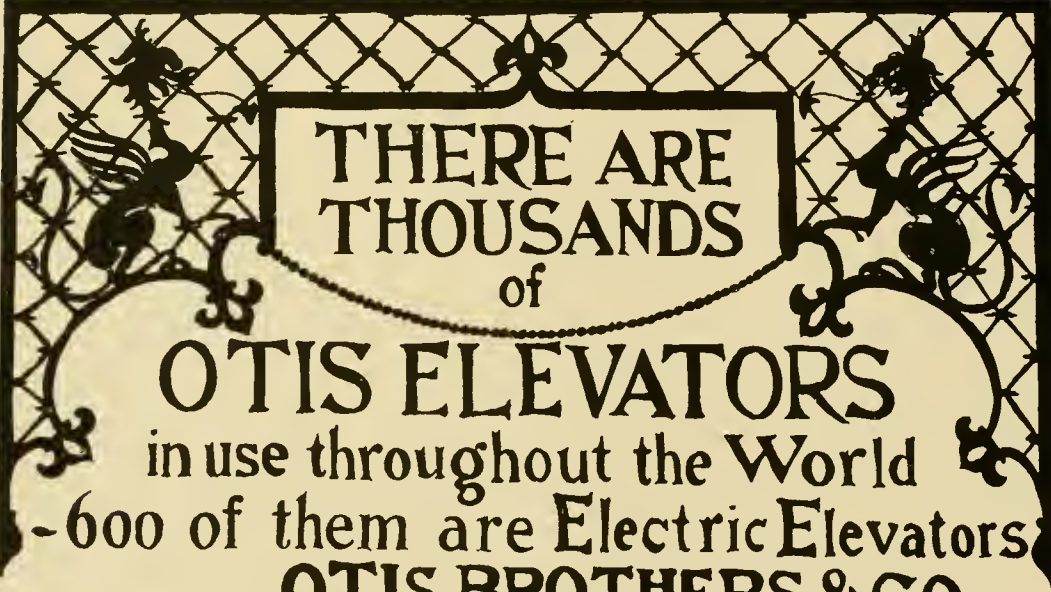


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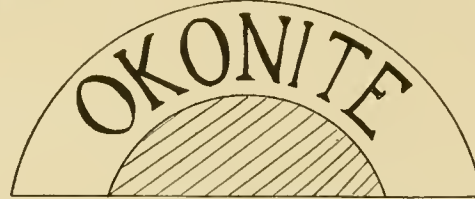


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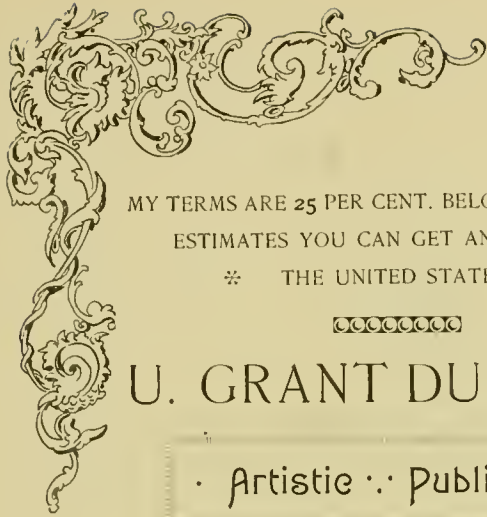
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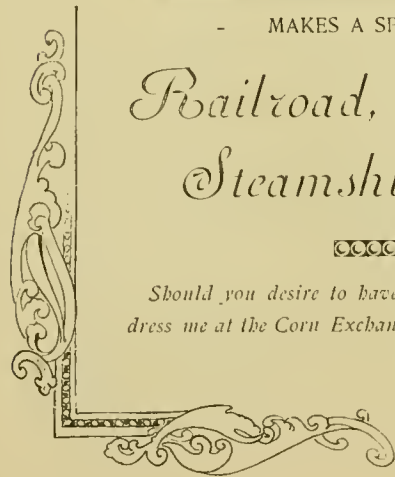
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*To the ordinary layman, slate is slate. Very few people not directly in the business of building or quarrying realize that there is as great a difference in this article as there is in lumber or brick, or any other building material.*



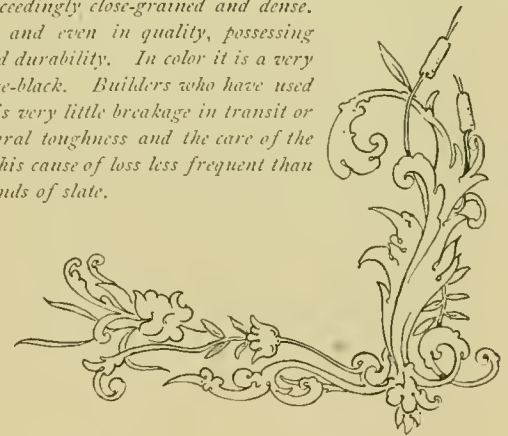
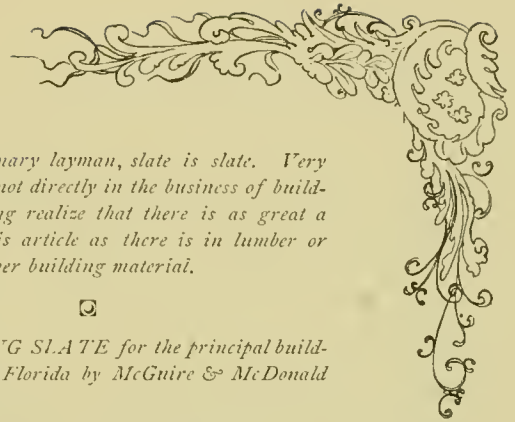
*The ROOFING SLATE for the principal buildings put up in Florida by McGuire & McDonald was supplied by*

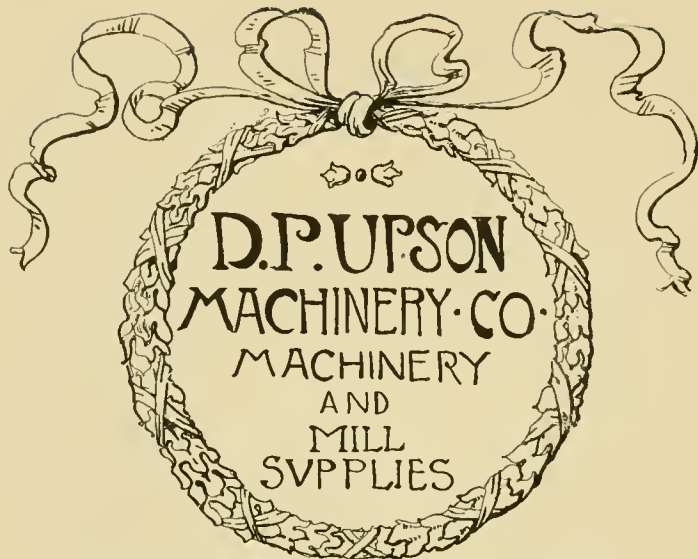
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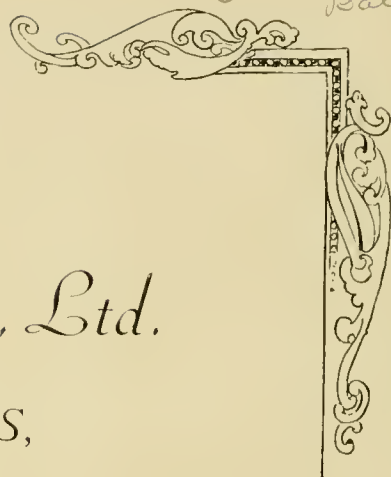
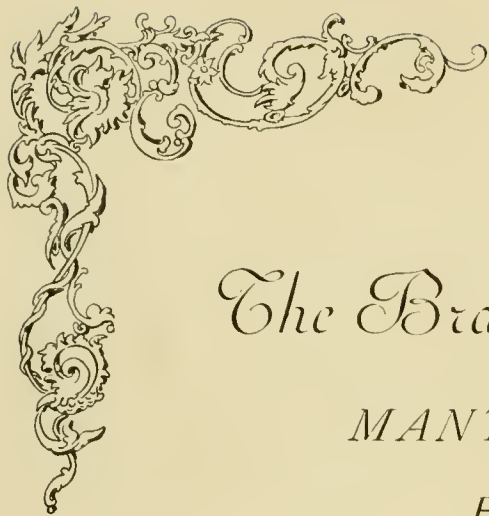
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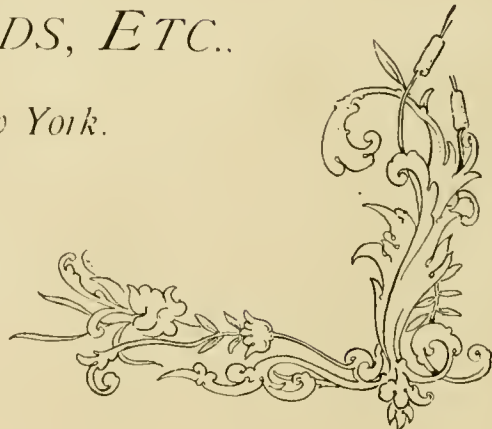
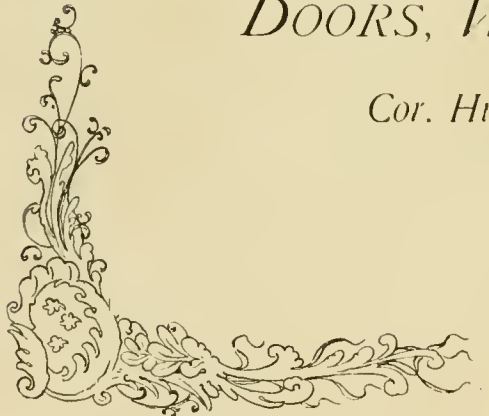
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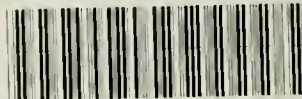








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